



Whispering Bell

Libya Daily Report



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KEY DEVELOPMENTS



11 May 2023

Tripoli

- MJI parking lot: AVs prevented entry
- 166 & SSA conduct drills
- Menfi meets Dbeibah & Bathily

Nationwide / General

- Al-Zawiya: Violating AVs seized
- Bathily-Saleh phone call
- Sirte: Politically-motivated raid
- Fezzan: UNDP launches peacebuilding strategy
- Al-Wattiyah Airbase: Turkish military cargo aircraft
- GNS signs investment agreement

Oil & Gas Update

- Ghadames Basin: New oil discovery
- Ras Lanuf: Catering staff demand raise

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SUMMARY

Key Points

- UN proposes new initiative
- Political tensions to escalate
- Al-Zawiya civil disobedience temp. halted

Political

The absence of a solution to the political deadlock and continuing legitimacy crisis over the GNU's mandate continue to define the context of heightened political uncertainty. In the current context, there are two political initiatives at odds with one another. The pro Al-Meshri bloc within the High Council of State (HCS) recently voted in favour of the House of Representatives' (HoR) 13TH constitutional amendment, while key international actors have announced support for the political initiative proposed by UN SRSG Abdoulaye Bathily.

Intense political manoeuvring will likely define the next few weeks against the backdrop of Bathily's proposed formation of a High-level Steering Panel for Libya. Key contentious issues such as the eligibility of dual nationals and military officials to run for president will continue to divide Libyan stakeholders and undermine progress towards a solution to the stalemate.

The UN SRSG's proposal is already facing resistance from key domestic actors such as the HoR. Consequently, Whispering Bell assesses actors opposed to the UN-led initiative will double down on their campaigns to form a new unified government as a hedge against the UN push to establish a new dialogue forum. In turn, renewed efforts to form a new government will mount the pressure on the GNU and PM Abdul Hamid Dbeibah. Amid US pressure to hold elections, Dbeibah may be compelled to reshuffle his cabinet and/or organise limited legislative elections. Of note, Dbeibah announced the formation of a government committee to implement and coordinate elections on 09 March, while Bathily provided further details on his proposal to form a High-Level Steering Panel for Libya in a press briefing on 11 March.

Security

Tripoli is operational and continues to present a relatively permissive operational environment. Sporadic incidents will continue to define security atmospherics in the western region. From a security standpoint, the status quo and stable atmospherics are set to remain as is in Tripoli. Low-impact and localised flashpoints outside government offices are possible but are unlikely to escalate or impact business operations. Targeted attacks against HoR MPs, HCS members, and other political figures are likely as political tensions peak over the next few weeks. Beyond Tripoli, protesters in Al-Zawiya reopened roads and government buildings following civil disobedience sparked by a deteriorating security environment. The temporary stop to the protests came in response to a security plan drafted by GNU Chief of Staff (CoS) Mohammed Al-Haddad.

Oil & Gas

Disruptions to production are likely despite evidence the LNA is yet to support a coordinated oil blockade. In his latest visit to Libya, US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Burns allegedly reiterated to Haftar the importance of safeguarding oil and gas facilities and production.

TRIPOLI

- **Report n°6324:** MJI parking lot: AVs prevented entry

WB sources reported security authorities based at Tripoli's Mitiga International Airport (MJI) prevented armoured vehicles (AVs) with a security permit issued by the Facilities Security Authority (FSA) from entering the Airport's parking lot on 10 May.

Analysis/Comment: Possible tensions due to disagreements over security measures between MJI-based authorities and the FSA cannot be ruled out.

Location: MJI
Incident Date: 10 May
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: WB
Veracity: A
Actors: MJI-based security
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Monitor the FSA's relationship with Tripoli's main armed formations.

- **Report n°6325:** 166 & SSA conduct drills

Reports indicate the GNU-affiliated 166 Battalion conducted military drills at Omar Al-Mukhtar Camp in Tripoli's Tajoura area on 09 May.

Separately, WB sources reported sporadic gunfire heard near Tripoli's Bab Al-Aziziya and Sidi Khalifa areas as a result of the Stabilisation Support Agency (SSA) conducting military drills at the 77 Camp.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Tajoura; 77 Camp
Incident Date: 09 May
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Social Media; WB
Veracity: B;A
Actors: 166 Battalion; SSA
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to identify the motives behind gunfire heard across the capital.

- **Report n°6326:** Menfi meets Dbeibah & Bathily

GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah received Presidential Council (PC) Head Mohamed Menfi at his office on 10 May. The two officials discussed local and international political developments, as well as national reconciliation and elections.

Separately, Bathily met with Menfi and discussed progress towards holding elections, national reconciliation, security and military unification, and establishing a mechanism for managing oil revenues and spending on 10 May.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: PM Office; PC Office
Incident Date: 10 May
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Local Media
Veracity: B
Actors: GNU; PC; UN SRSG
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to monitor the relations between the Tripoli power bloc and the UN SRSG.

NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **Al-Zawiya: Violating AVs seized**

Al-Zawiya Security Directorate reported all armoured vehicles (AVs) with no license plates or movement permits were seized on 10 May.

Comment: It will be recalled that Al-Zawiya Youth Movement listed a series of demands after declaring civil disobedience in protest of a deteriorating security situation, which included prohibiting the movements of AVs across the city.

- **Bathily-Saleh phone call**

UN SRSG Abdoulaye Bathily reviewed with House of Representatives (HoR) Speaker Aguila Saleh political developments in Libya and the need for the 6+6 Joint Committee to accelerate producing a legal framework for elections in a phone call on 10 May.

- **Sirte: Politically-motivated raid**

Reports indicate that the LNA's Tariq Ibn Ziyad Brigade raided the house of a Gaddafi regime loyalist in Sirte in the early hours of 10 May. It remains unclear if the target was arrested/kidnapped.

Comment: A recent surge in LNA-sanctioned politically-motivated arrests and kidnappings could exacerbate existing tensions between the LNA and the pro-Gaddafi bloc and translate into security incidents across Sirte.

- **Fezzan: UNDP launches peacebuilding strategy**

UNDP in Libya announced the launch of the Local Peacebuilding and Resilience in Southern Libya in partnership with the government, local authorities, civil society, and private sector, aimed at establishing "inclusive and sustainable peace at the community level." US Special Envoy to Libya Richard Norland and Chargé d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Libya Leslie Ordeman praised the UNDP's efforts in the south and stated that they are fully aligned with the US Strategy to Prevent Conflict and promote stability for Libya.

- **Al-Wattiyah Airbase: Turkish military cargo aircraft**

A Turkish military cargo Airbus A400M aircraft landed at Al-Wattiyah Airbase on 10 May, according to open source tracking platforms.

- **Benghazi diverts flights to Labraq**

Benina International Airport's (BEN) Administration announced the diversion of flights to Al-Abraq International Airport (LAQ) due to adverse weather conditions on 10 May.

- **GNS signs investment agreement**

The GNS signed a cooperation agreement with China Railway Group (CREG) and BFi Management to implement reconstruction and infrastructure projects in Libya on 10 May. The agreement was signed in the presence of Investment Minister Ali Al-Saidi and Deputy Prime Minister Al-Qatrani, among other government and parliament officials.

OIL & GAS UPDATE

Terminal Status

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| Es-Sider | Operational |
| Ras Lanuf | Operational |
| Mellitah | Operational |
| Zawiya | Operational |
| Zueitina | Operational |
| Marsa | Operational |
| Brega | |
| Marsa | Operational |
| Hariga | |
| Bouri | Operational |
| Jurf | Operational |

Es-Sider: Stable terminal operations and security atmospheric reported as of 1700hrs LT.

- **Report n°6327:** Ghadames Basin: New oil discovery

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) announced a new oil discovery in contract Area 82 Block 4 in the Ghadames Basin with an average daily production rate of 1.888 barrels per day (bpd) as a result of testing the new field wildcat well F1-82/04 on 10 May. The NOC stated that this represents the third discovery of Tatneft in Area 82 Block 4.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Ghadames Basin
Incident Date: 10 May
Timestamp: N/A
Source: NOC
Veracity: A
Actors: NOC

Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to monitor O&G developments.

- **Report n°6328:** Ras Lanuf: Catering staff demand raise

Several employees of the National Oil Fields and Terminals Catering (NOFCAT) demanded GNU Oil and Gas Minister Mohamed Aoun and NOC Chairman Farhat Ben Guedara to increase their salaries and gave them one-week to address their demands in a video statement issued in [Ras Lanuf](#) on 10 May.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: [Ras Lanuf](#)
Incident Date: 10 May
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Social Media
Veracity: B
Actors: NOFCAT

Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to monitor the motives behind protests held by oil sector employees.

VERACITY SCALE

A – Reliable:

This information is almost certainly true. A is Reliable, "No doubt of authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency; has a history of complete reliability". It is reported by one or more credible publications, and if an author is listed we have no reason to suspect them to be biased. The reporting is sourced based on widely available or verifiable information. The information is consistent with everything our team knows about this subject.

B – Fairly Reliable:

This information is probably true. This information is possibly true. B is "Fairly Reliable" for "minor doubt". It is reported one or more mostly credible publications, and if an author is listed we have no reason to suspect them to be biased on this subject. The reporting is primarily based on verifiable information. The information is mostly consistent with everything our team knows about this subject, but may contain new or surprising information given credibility on the strength of the publication or author.

C – Unreliable:

This information is probably false. This information is almost certainly false. "not usually reliable" for "significant doubt," and "unreliable" for "Lacking in authenticity, trustworthiness, and competency; history of invalid information". It appears in social media or an unreliable publication, and may be written by an author that is not known to us or is known to be less reliable. The reporting is thin, largely dependent on anonymous sources or unverifiable accounts from social media or limited access areas. The information is consistent enough with our knowledge of the subject to be possible, but contains sufficient discrepancies to make it seem unlikely. The information is mostly or entirely inconsistent with our knowledge of the subject.

ACRONYM LIST

| | |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AQ | Al-Qaeda |
| BAM | Al-Bunyan Al-Marsous |
| BCP | Border Crossing Point |
| BEN | Benghazi International Airport |
| BDB | Benghazi Defence Brigade |
| BPMC | Brega Petroleum Marketing Company |
| BRSC | Benghazi Revolutionary Shura Council |
| CBL | Central Bank of Libya |
| CESF | Constitution and Elections Support Force |
| CNI | Critical National Infrastructure |
| CDA | Constitutional Drafting Assembly |
| DACOCT | Deterrence Apparatus for Combating Organized Crime and Terrorism |
| DDR | Disarmament, demobilising and reintegration |
| DF | Direct Fire |
| DMSC | Derna Mujahideen Shura Security Council |
| GACS | General Administration of Central Support |
| GASO | General Administration of Security Operations |
| GECOL | General Electricity Company of Libya |
| GMMR | Great Man-Made River |
| GNA | Government of National Accord |
| GNC | General National Congress |
| GNS | Government of National Stability |
| GNU | Government of National Unity |
| GTUC | Greater Trpoli Union Council |
| HCS | High Council of State |
| HNEC | High National Election Commission (HNEC) |
| HoR | House of Representatives |
| IDF | Indirect Fire |
| IED | Improvised Explosive Device |
| IDP | Internally Displaced Persons |
| IOC | International Oil Company |
| IS | Islamic State |
| JMC | Joint Military Commission |
| LAB | Libyan Audit Bureau |
| LIFG | Libyan Islamic Fighting Group |
| LNA | Libyan National Army |
| LPA | Libyan Political Agreement |
| LPDF | Libyan Political Dialogue Forum |
| LROR | Libyan Revolutionary Operations Room |
| MJI | Mitiga International Airport |
| MoD | Ministry of Defence |
| MoF | Ministry of Finance |
| MoFA | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| MOGC | Mellitah Oil and Gas Complex |
| MoI | Ministry of Interior |
| MoJ | Ministry of Justice |
| MoO | Ministry of Oil |

| | |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| MoT | Ministry of Transportation |
| MRA | Misrata International Airport |
| NEE | No Expected Exposure |
| NIEE | No Immediate Expected Exposure |
| NFDK | No Further Details Known |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organisation |
| NOC | National Oil Company |
| NSTR | Nothing Significant To Report |
| P3+2 | France, Germany, Italy, UK, US |
| PC | Presidential Council |
| PFG | Petroleum Facilities Guard |
| RASCO | Ras Lanuf Oil and Gas Processing Company |
| RPG | Rocket-Propelled Grenade |
| RTA | Road Traffic Accident |
| SAF | Small Arms Fire |
| SSA | Stabilisation Support Agency |
| SDF | Special Deterrence Force |
| TPF | Tripoli Protection Force |
| UNSRSG | United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General |
| UNSMIL | United Nations Support Mission in Libya |
| UXO | Unexploded Ordnance |
| WOC | Waha Oil Company |